

10/11
Abergele Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1959

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

WILLIAM McKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1959/60

Councillor H. J. MANIFOLD (Chairman).

Councillor W. C. WILLIAMS (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors :

Mrs. M. Ault.	C. R. Little.
A. Brocklebank.	Henry Parry.
T. E. M. Cowden.	Hywel Parry.
W. D. Davies.	W. Shaw.
A. E. Jones.	J. Ellis Williams.
D. E. Jones.	R. E. Williams.
P. Idwal Jones	J. C. Winkup.
F. J. S. Leuty.	J. N. Wright.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1959-60

Medical Officer of Health :

Wm. McKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Cert. Smoke Inspection.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
PENTRE MAWR,
ABERGELE.

20th July, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
ABERGELE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Ault, and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my report on the health of residents in Abergele during 1959.

It follows the plan set out by the Minister of Health in Circular 1/60 Wales.

The statistics do not call for special comment.

1959 was a difficult year. The dry summer led to drought all over North Wales. Glyn Lws water supply failed and Llanddulas was without water. The streams were dry and so failed to take away pollution that occurs. The promise of a reorganisation of the Water Authorities gave hopes of a development such as would prevent a recurrence—but promises were vain. We still hope that 1960 will not have a dry summer.

Housing has progressed, but not fast enough. Slum clearance has been almost at a standstill. I expect 1960 to show improvement.

Drainage in the Towyn-Kinmel Bay area has now been accomplished but large parts of the district still need attention, especially the Llanddulas area.

The sewer outfall requires attention.

Refuse disposal has given cause for worry. The present tip is too easily disturbed by irresponsible persons, some of whom deposit unwanted material, while other scavage in the tip and carelessly smoke while there—the result is that fires have occurred. In any case, tipping at Llanddulas means a very long and costly haul for the vehicles. We hope to have a new site in 1960.

It will be appreciated that the population of Abergele increases at least four-fold in July and August. This is largely due to an influx of camping visitors. While they are welcome, they do set us problems. Water supply, drainage, refuse collection, street cleaning, are too easily overlooked by casual critics. It is not easy to quadruple services for short periods. We are criticised for allow-

ing new caravan sites in our area. Under existing law, Abergele Council is powerless to prevent these. There may be a strengthening of control under the new law (contemplated) but caravanning is now part of the national life and Abergele must bow to national demands. We need a defined and fixed policy. I am very glad to record that your officials and the County Planning Officer have had many consultations during the past year and that as a result each knows the others difficulties and desires. Mr. Lewis has given me the following statement for inclusion in this report :—

“ The fine summer of last year gave a further impetus to the popularity of holiday camping.

In the established camps a marked improvement is taking place in the standard of accommodation provided. Older caravans are being replaced, sometimes by Chalets and sometimes by larger and better equipped caravans, whilst facilities are being extended generally.

The continuation of these trends must, in the long term, increase the attractiveness of the area.

The position on a number of temporary caravan sites, many of which were grossly overcrowded, is a matter for greater concern, however.

Clearly, until the peak demand can be satisfied under properly controlled conditions, this type of development must be a continual problem to the Public Health Authorities and the Planning Authority.”

The above are problems that we face. They are big problems and their ultimate solution will be greatly to the benefit of Abergele. It is good to report that in each, progress is being made. This progress is only possible because the officials co-operate, and the Councillors encourage.

I would be remiss if I did not publicly commend the continued efforts of Mr. Frank Evans. In those activities with which the Medical Officer of Health is concerned, his help has been spontaneous and generous.

To the Chairman, Councillor Manifold, too, I would express appreciation for his support.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. McKENDRICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) of Urban District	7965
Population—Registrar General's Estimate (mid 1959) ...	7490
Population—Census (1951)	7539
Rateable Value	£112,975
Sum represented by a penny rate	£454

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	47	56	103
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Total	49	58	107

STILL-BIRTHS :

Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	—	2	2

DEATHS OF INFANTS :

(a) Under 1 year of age—			
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	—	2	2
(b) Under 4 weeks of age—			
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	—	1	1
(c) Under 1 week of age—			
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	—	1	1
Total DEATHS	70	74	144

RATES :

Birth rate per 1,000 population—

(a) Crude 14.2

(b) Corrected 15.6

Comparability figure for births 1.10

Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births ... 3.7%

Infant Mortality Rate—

Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births 18.7

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 0.0

Neo-natal Maternal Mortality (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) 9.35

Peri-natal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live births and still-births) 28.0

There were 2 infant deaths and 2 still-births, giving four infant lives lost at or near the time of birth.

Maternal Mortality 0.00
Death Rate :

(a) Crude 19.2

(b) Corrected 15.5

Comparability figure for deaths 0.81

The following table shows the vital statistics for the past eight years :

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Population ...	7182	7099	7160	7190	7230	7270	7350	7490
Births	116	97	104	102	83	89	84	107
Birth Rate ...	16.5	15.4	15.5	15.6	12.6	13.3	12.5	14.2
Still-births ...	5	2	—	1	3	2	3	2
Still-birth Rate	0.69	0.28	—	0.14	0.36	0.27	0.4	0.25
Infant Deaths ..	2	3	2	4	4	2	1	2
Infant Mortality Rate	17	29	20.6	39	48	22.4	11.9	18.7
Deaths	99	112	104	105	137	128	104	144
Death Rate ...	11.2	11.9	10.8	10.9	15.2	14.2	11.4	15.5

These figures show that each year since 1953 the population has increased slightly. The excess of deaths over births was 37, so there has been an estimated excess of immigrants over emigrants—177. Employment statistics do not distinguish between Abergele and Colwyn Bay areas, but I am informed that there is less unemployment now than for many past years—comparing quarter with quarter. Moreover, there are now more “ jobs ” for employable persons than in the past. Most of those unemployed come into the category of 60+.

The ages of which deaths occurred were :

Years	Male	Female	Total
0— 1	2	—	2
1— 4	—	—	—
5— 9	—	1	1
10—14	—	1	1
15—24	—	—	—
25—34	—	—	—
35—44	5	1	6
45—54	2	4	6
55—64	10	5	15
Over 65	46	57	103
Totals	65	69	134

These totals do not tally with the figures sent by the Registrar-General. Some of his decisions re inward and outward transfers—i.e., persons who died in other areas but should be regarded as Abergele people, and vice-versa—are unknown to me. 103 of those known to me were over 65 years of age (i.e. 71%).

The causes of all deaths were :

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Cancer—			
Stomach	1	2	3
Lung	3	1	4
Breast	—	4	4
Uterus	—	1	1
Other	9	9	18
Vascular lesions of nervous systems ...	10	13	23
Coronary disease	17	12	29
Hypertension	—	3	3
Other heart disease	5	10	15
Other circulatory disease	5	1	6
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
Other ill-defined disease	6	11	17
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
Other accidents	2	—	2
Total	70	74	144

There were 12 deaths from Cancer in 1958 and 27 in 1959. 18 from coronary disease in 1958 and 29 in 1959. These are the main changes.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

A. Laboratory Provisions

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL :

Samples of drinking water, sea water, milk, ice cream and other foods, are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Bryn Hyfryd, Conway, for bacteriological examination. I have to thank Dr. Kingsley Smith and his staff for their unfailing help and the speed with which they issue reports.

The following were subject to report :

Water Samples	40
Milk Samples	36
Ice Cream Samples	36
	—
Total	112
	—

There were 125 samples sent in 1958.

Family doctors may submit throat and nose swabs, blood, faeces, urine, cerebrospinal fluid, etc., from patients.

Prophylactic and Therapeutic Agents

Smallpox vaccine, lymph, gamma globulin and prophylactic T.A.F. and F.T. (anti diphtheria) are stocked at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

Typhus vaccine, rabies vaccine and anthrax vaccine, for prophylactic use only, are held at the Public Health Laboratory, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (Tel. Royal 3636). Anthrax vaccine for therapeutic use is held at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool (Tel. Aintree 2324). (24-hour service.)

Snake anti-venom and Botulinus anti-serum are held at the C. & A. Hospital, Bangor (Tel. Bangor 3321). (24-hour service.)

Anti-yellow fever vaccine is obtainable at the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, 102 Whitechapel Road, Liverpool (Tel. Royal 6314) and inoculations are given by appointment only.

Anti-cholera, anti-tetanus and whooping cough vaccines must be obtained through the usual trade channels.

Anti-vaccine for tropical snakes is held only at the Dispensary, Royal South Hants. and Southampton Hospital, Southampton (Tel. Southampton 26211). (24-hour service.)

2. PATHOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL :

Doctors may send specimens of material to the Pathologist at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl, for investigation and report that would help in the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

3. WATER :

(a) Bacteriological :

Water is tested for bacteriological purity at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. Specimens must be taken by special technique—so only those sent by the Public Health Inspector are normally examined. The tests show the presence or absence of living bacteria of doubtful origin. They are “ short range ” tests—revealing existing or very recent and possibly transient contamination. It also reveals local as compared with systemic faults.

(b) Chemical :

This is an elaborate and costly test—it is a “ long range test, showing fouling of the gathering grounds by excreta, minerals, etc.” Tests are made at the Assay Office, Chester.

(c) Chlorine Tests :

Chlorine is added to water at the reservoir. The amount required varies with organic content, from day to day. So that the correct quantity be added and none, or very little excess, left to taste the water, tests are carried out by the Surveyor and his staff. This is a simple test and easily done at the tap side.

(d) Milk and Other Foods :

These are tested at the source and at the wholesale depot by the County Public Health Inspector. His tests show whether or not the milk is satisfactory when it leaves the wholesaler.

I doubt the value of these tests as the value of milk depends on its condition when it reaches the housewife. Therefore, your Public Health Inspector takes samples from Retailers as they deliver milk to houses. 36 were obtained and taken to the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, in 1959.

(3) Adulteration :

The County Food and Drugs Inspector has the duty of seeing that food is what it purports to be and is chemically pure. Mr. T. H. Evans, Chief Inspector for Denbighshire, has given me the following report :

“ Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, in ABERGELE URBAN DISTRICT, during the year ended 31st December, 1959 ” :

Article	No. taken	Not Genuine, or	
		Genuine	Sub-Standard
MILK	24	24	—
Cake Mixture	1	1	—
Evaporated Milk	1	1	—
Ice Cream	2	2	—
Sausages	2	2	—
Fish Paste	1	1	—
Salt	1	1	—
Gin	1	1	—
Totals	33	33	—

All samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

(Signed) THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh.

17 Vicarage Hill,

Wrexham.

7th April, 1960.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

The County Council provides transport for invalids unable, for medical reasons, to travel to and from hospitals. This transport is only provided on the request of a doctor, except in the case of accidents, when a “ 999 ” call receives priority attention.

The administration of the service in Abergele has been deputed to me and is located in my office in Colwyn Bay (Tel. 3388—is manned for 24 hours every day). The difficulties re emergency calls reported last year have now been ironed out.

There is one ambulance stationed at Abergele. It is manned by one full-time paid driver, assisted by day by members of the Abergele Voluntary Corps. It is manned from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. and at the week-ends by members of the Abergele Voluntary Corps, who give their time freely to this work. The public spirit of these men deserves commendation.

The vehicle itself has been replaced by a new Austin ambulance.

The Abergele ambulance and team, although based on Abergele (Pentre Mawr), serves the whole of West Denbighshire. 5 ambulances (the pool) are now stationed at Colwyn Bay, one at Llangernyw and another at Denbigh. In case of need, any of these vehicles serves in the Abergele area.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

There are two nurses resident in the area. Patients are visited in their homes and treated at the request of doctors.

Home Helps are provided by the County Council to help run homes during the temporary incapacity of the housewife.

CLINICS :

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :

1. Child Welfare :

Pentre Mawr, Abergele : THURSDAY, at 2 p.m., each week.

Beulah Schoolroom, Llanddulas : First MONDAY in each month, at 2 p.m.

Church Room, Towyn : First WEDNESDAY in each month, at 2 p.m.

2. Orthopaedic :

Colwyn Bay Clinic, Nant-y-Glyn Road : Alternate THURSDAYS, at 11 a.m.

3. Ophthalmic :

As required. Appointments are made for an Ophthalmic Surgeon to attend at Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.

4. Dental :

By appointment at Pentre Mawr, Abergele.

5. Tuberculosis :

Rhyl (ordinary clinic) : Fridays, 9 a.m. until noon, at the Royal Alexandra Hosiptal.

Rhyl (refill clinic) : Fridays, at 2 p.m., at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Colwyn Bay, at the West Denbighshire Hospital, Hesketh Road : 1st and 3rd Thursdays, at 2 p.m.

DAY NURSERIES :

There are no day nurseries in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS :

There has been no difficulty in securing admission to hospital of any person in need of isolation or treatment, and vigorous efforts to control and stamp out this disease are being made. The following table shows the incidence and age distribution of cases notified to me during the year :

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— 9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
35—44	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	4	5	1	1	1	2	—	—

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning and end of the year was :

On Register 1/1/59		On Register 31/12/59	
Pulmonary—		Pulmonary—	
Males	39	Males	36
Females	20	Females	19
Non-Pulmonary—		Non-Pulmonary—	
Males	5	Males	6
Females	1	Females	1
Total	65	Total	62

The Mass Radiography Unit carried out a survey in the Abergele and Llanddulas areas in July, 1959. The results are shown in the following table :

I would point out that this Unit is not just a Unit looking for new cases of tuberculosis. The reports sent me show that at least 18 conditions are looked for and found where they exist—e.g., bony deformity, large glands, cancer of lung, heart enlargement, bronchiectasis, old pleurisy, deformities of oesophagus or diaphragm, etc. Thus, the Mass X-Ray gives or helps to give, a simple answer to questions that may worry people. 32 of those who had pains, etc., were given reassuring answers by the result of attending.

ANALYSIS IN AGE GROUPS

	Grand Total		Under 15		15—24		25—34		35—44		45—59		60 & over		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total number examined	—	—	29	36	31	56	51	51	51	53	35	51	197	247		
Number found to be abnormal (a and b)	—	—	2	1	1	3	3	6	10	5	12	15	28	30		
Classification of abnormal cases—																
(a) Requiring further observation	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	4	5	2	5	2	15	11		
(b) Other abnormalities of the chest	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	5	3	2	13	13	19		

INFECTIOUS DISEASE :

The following table shows the cases of infectious disease notified to me in 1959 :

Cases Notified	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.
Pulmonary T.B.	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Influenzal Pneumonia	6	—	—	—	1	1	—	4
Lobar Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Primary Pneumonia	3	—	—	1	—	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Scarlet Fever	6	—	3	2	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	61	4	25	32	—	—	—	—
Total	89	5	30	37	2	6	4	5

IMMUNISATION :

85 persons received primary vaccination against smallpox and another 11 were re-vaccinated.

102 children received a primary course of inoculations against diphtheria and whooping cough and 42 received booster doses.

1,782 persons received primary injections against poliomyelitis and 1,274 received booster doses.

WATER :

Abergele normally receives most of its water from two sources :

All the area east of Cefn Ogof receives water from the Rhyl Council supply. I am indebted to Mr. Round, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Engineer and Manager to the Rhyl U.D.C. Water Undertaking, for the following statement :

“ The Rhyl Water Undertaking's direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Parish of Llanefydd. This gathering ground has an area of 900 acres and an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The water is stored in two impounding reservoirs—Plas Uchaf (storage capacity 50 million gallons) and Dolwen (48 million gallons). This source is supplemented, except during very wet periods by pumping water from the River Aled into Plas Uchaf Reservoir. In dry weather, an adequate flow in the River Aled is maintained by releasing water from two impounding reservoirs—Llyn Aled (375 million gallons) and Aled Isaf (270 million gallons), situated on the Denbigh Moors, near Llansannan.

The water is chlorinated at a dosage of about 1 part per million as it leaves Plas Uchaf Reservoir, and is treated at Glascoed Filter Station by pressure filters of the air scour type using sulphate of alumina as a coagulant and sodium carbonate for pH correction. 0.5 parts million of chlorine are added after filtration for final sterilization of the water.

The annual rainfall for 1959 on the Llanefydd Gathering Ground was 31.75 inches compared with the average annual rainfall of 30.27 inches. The period May to September was, however, very dry with a total rainfall of 7.27 inches compared with an average rainfall for the period of 11.99 inches. No restrictions on the use of water were imposed by the Rhyl Council, but the publicity given to water shortage in England and Wales generally, undoubtedly assisted in the conservation of supplies.

Consumption of water in Abergele (estimated during 1959)

	Total monthly consumption	Average daily consumption during month
January	10,524,000	339,000 gallons
February	9,538,000	341,000 "
March	10,996,000	355,000 "
April	10,544,000	351,000 "
May	12,727,000	411,000 "
June	13,691,000	456,000 "
July	16,545,000	534,000 "
August	16,261,000	525,000 "
September	12,772,000	426,000 "
October	10,705,000	345,000 "
November	10,029,000	334,000 "
December	10,151,000	327,000 "

Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water

Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory, Conway	98
Number returned as Class 1 (Satisfactory)	98

Chemical Analysis

" The following chemical analysis was made by the Counties Public Health Laboratory, London :

Chemical results in parts per million

Appearance :	Very faint opalescence with a very slight deposit.
Turbidity	Less than 3
Odour	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace
Total Solids	150
Alkalinity as Calcium	
Carbonate	20

Harness : Total	80
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.091
Metals—	
Iron	0.12
Zinc	Absent
Copper	Absent
Lead	Absent
Manganese	Absent
Colour	10
pH	7.5
Electric Conductivity	220
Chlorine present as Chloride	16
Carbonate	20
Non-Carbonate	60
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed	1.4
Residual Chlorine	Absent

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, just on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is fairly soft in character and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It shows only a trace of colour and is of satisfactory organic quality. From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

New works proposed include the replacement of one of the diesel engine driven pumps at the Aled Pumping Station by an electrically driven pump of twice the capacity and the laying of 950 yards of 12-inch pumping main. These works will raise the output of the pumping station from 1.75 to 3.8 million gallons per day and will at the same time reduce pumping costs.

(Signed) J. ROUND,

Engineer and Manager.

2. The Llanddulas area receives water from Glyn Lws reservoir. This gathering ground was no doubt adequate many years ago but with the increasing demand from Betws-yn-Rhos and Llanddulas, it is strained even in normal summers. In a dry summer—as in 1959—it is inadequate. By strenuous efforts, Mr. Gethin was able to secure a minimum supply until August, then water had to be distributed in pails, etc. Conditions were most unpleasant. The water was at all times free from bacterial contamination, but as the reservoir fell in level, decaying water plants gave it colour and smell which, although not detrimental to health, was most unsatisfactory for some days.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959

TABLE I

General Statistics

No. of complaints received and attended to	46
No. of inspections for detection of nuisances	163
No. of re-visits in connection with nuisances	79
No. of nuisances abated	24
No. of nuisances not abated, but work in hand	14
No. of Informal Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	18
No. of Formal Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	Nil
No. of Visits re Moveable Dwellings and Camp Sites	528
No. of inquiries re Infectious Diseases	12
No. of Visits to Slaughterhouse	371
No. of Visits to premises where food is prepared and sold ...	33
No. of Visits to Ice Cream Shops	52
No. of Samples taken of Ice Cream	36
No. of Visits re Milk Control	46
No. of Samples taken of Milk Supply	36
No. of Visits re Water Supply	55
No. of Water Samples taken	46
No. of Visits re Rodent Control	11
No. of Inspections of Factories	7
No. of Miscellaneous Visits	80
No. of Interviews	191
No. of Visits re Refuse and Salvage	221
No. of Visits re Shops Act	71

TABLE II

Sanitary Defects

No. of defective or choked drains	20
No. of defective W.C. accommodation and Sanitary Fittings	2
No. of defects in water supply fittings	Nil
No. of defective pails or absence of pails	Nil
No. of dilapidated refuse bins or absence of refuse bins	12
No. of defective roofs or chimney stacks	7
No. of defective rainwater fittings	5
No. of damp conditions of houses	9
No. of miscellaneous nuisances	11

TABLE 111

Housing Statistics

1.	Inspection of dwellings during the year :	
(a)	Total number of dwellings inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	38
(b)	Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
(c)	Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of that referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	27
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :	
	Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	23
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
	Number of houses in respect of which Formal Notices under Public Health Act, 1936, were served	Nil
4.	Demolition as a result of informal action :	
	Number of individually unfit houses demolished by the Owners	3
5.	Number of Demolition Orders made as a result of formal action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 ...	1
6.	Number of houses closed as a result of formal action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
7.	Number of houses closed as a result of informal action	Nil
8.	Number of houses made fit as a result of formal action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
9.	Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Rent Act, 1957 (Form J)	Nil
10.	Number of houses in respect of which improvement grants were made under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959	19

HOUSING

During the year 1959 the Council gave serious consideration to the problem of erecting new houses which would be suitable for occupation by the general body of housing applicants and also by the occupiers of the houses situated in areas in respect of which it was proposed to declare Clearance Orders.

The continuing increase in building costs, together with other considerations, made it necessary to review the proposals to erect so many three-bedroomed houses on the Maes Canol Estate. A close scrutiny of the register of housing applicants, together with an analysis of the family units occupying houses which it was proposed to demolish, showed that a larger percentage of the smaller types of houses, bungalows or flats was required.

Visits of inspection were made to several areas where smaller and less costly houses were in course of construction, and it is pleasing to report that by the end of the year arrangements were well in hand for a revised lay-out of the uncompleted portion of the Maes Canol Estate. The completion of these new and less costly houses will enable the Council to proceed with the Slum Clearance programme. The carrying out of this programme is long overdue, but it could not be achieved until the required number of new houses of a suitable type were available.

The selection of tenants for new Council houses and for Council houses which become vacant is a task in which I have been called to play an increasing part. Many factors have to be taken into consideration and disappointed applicants sometimes find it difficult to appreciate the Committee's decision. The house building programme about to be commenced will ease the burden of the Committee.

The aspect of housing which has given most satisfaction during the year has undoubtedly been that connected with the making of improvement grants within the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. Nineteen grants were made during the year involving a total sum of £5,055. This means that a sum of at least £12,000 was spent by owners on schemes of modernisation and conversion. The result of such activity is that nineteen houses or flats, modern in every way, have become available for occupation by the owners, or for letting, at an average grant cost of £266. As the Ministry meet three-quarters of the cost of such work, the average cost to the Council has been £66 per house or flat. Since the Council first operated this scheme a total of fifty-one grants have been made in the sum of £13,390 on an approved expenditure by the owners of £28,860. The standard of housing accommodation must inevitably be improving as a result of this work.

It was anticipated that under the Rent Act, 1957, many applications would be received from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair. Very little use has been made of this provision by residents in the Abergele area, and during the year 1959 not a single Certificate of Disrepair was issued.

The one formal Demolition Order made during the year was in respect of a sub-standard "home-made" shack. The order allowed a reasonable period of time to the owner-occupiers to find alternative accommodation.

Three houses were demolished by the owners, by informal action, after the Council had re-housed the occupiers.

The problem of the large old-fashioned boarding house type of property, which is now let off in rooms, is proving to be most obdurate. The conditions obtaining in some of these houses are most unsatisfactory, indeed they are slums. The legal powers to deal with this type of house are found in Section 36 of the Housing Act, 1957. These powers give partial remedies, but no jurisdiction over prevention. New cases can arise without the Council's knowledge or consent. This subject was discussed at the last Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors when it was stressed that once started such a process was likely to spread through a whole area with resultant deterioration. There are examples among this type of house where a most satisfactory scheme of conversion into flats with the aid of improvement grants has brought about a transformation. Every encouragement should be given to such schemes so as to arrest the deterioration which is taking place.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

The caravan population continues year by year to increase. During the year five new sites were licensed for a total occupation by two hundred and two caravans. The Council's policy for a number of years has been to restrict the density of caravans to twenty per acre, and this means that the issue of the five licences resulted in ten acres of land not previously used for caravans being brought into such use. In all but one of the cases the sites were situated within the camping zones as indicated in the County Development Plan.

In four cases, new licences were issued to the new occupiers of existing sites and in one case a revised licence was issued to an occupier, amending the number of caravans permitted and also authorising the use of a field for chalets. This field had been given planning permission for the chalet development and the layout had been prepared by the Planning Department.

The effect of these developments resulted in a total of sixty-four licensed sites.

The one case where the site was not situated in the camping zone was concerned with a small area of land in Kinmel Bay. Successful enforcement proceedings had been taken by the Planning Authority against the occupier for using the site after permission had been refused.

The Public Health Act and the Town and Country Planning Act are at such variance in their powers that in spite of the Planning Authority's refusal and subsequent successful enforcement action in the local court, the Abergele Council had no alternative but to grant a licence. Such a state of affairs is indeed farcical.

The total rating assessment of the camping sites is now in excess of £23,000.

During early August an officer of the County Planning Department carried out a survey of all the sites used for camping purposes in the Abergele Urban area. This survey included the licensed sites, the sites used for short periods at the peak of the season and also the unauthorised sites then in regular use. It was found that there were 1,302 chalets; 6,122 caravans and 1,300 tents.

There is no doubt at all that the standard obtaining on the licensed sites continues to improve, with the steady decline in the number of obsolete types of moveable dwellings and poor types of caravan. The site owners take every opportunity of removing sub-standard caravans and chalets.

One noticeable feature during the year has been the increase in the number of chalets and the interest on the part of a number of site owners to convert to chalets. In some cases chalets of permanent construction are being introduced and when the change-over is complete such sites will no longer need a Public Health Act licence. There are arguments both in favour and also against chalets and opinions differ as to which of the two—chalet or caravan—is preferable.

The unauthorised and unlicensed camping activities provided a very troublesome problem, especially during the months of July and August when two particular sites were the cause of very great concern.

In one of these cases, in Towyn, about two hundred tents were sited on land lying on the north side of the main railway track and all the facilities, in way of water supply and sanitary conveniences, were situated on the south side of the track. The pedestrian use of

the uncontrolled crossing caused much concern, especially as, most unfortunately, a boy was killed while crossing the track. Arising out of this fatality discussions were held with the British Railways Executive regarding the problems which exist at that crossing and at several other, even more extensively used, uncontrolled crossings.

It is regrettable that up to the present time no solution has been found to this most unsatisfactory state of affairs. Planning permission for this site had been refused, and an appeal dismissed. Successful proceedings had been taken in the local Court against a former occupier for allowing the site to be used in contravention of the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Here again is an example of the futility of the present legislation, when neither the Planning Authority nor the local Authority can prevent the use of this site for a limited period of time.

Another case of unauthorised camping which caused much concern was a site adjoining the main road in Towyn. For a short period of time intensive camping use was made of a field of about eight acres, and on one day in August a count showed the siting of three hundred and eighty-nine tents and fourteen caravans.

Two unauthorised sites in Llanddulas also caused much concern. In the case of one site, successful enforcement proceedings were brought in the local court against two successive occupiers. In the other case proceedings were taken in the local court and at Quarter Sessions with successful results. In all these cases, I gave evidence on behalf of the Planning Authority.

There is also much unauthorised "back garden" holiday accommodation brought into use for a few weeks. It will be appreciated that to deal with this unauthorised camping activity is a task which is very time-consuming and one which has little reward in the way of achievement.

The provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Bill have been examined, and while many worthwhile new powers are included it is hoped that there will be revision before the Bill is enacted and so enable us to deal more effectively with our camping problems.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All outstanding contracts in connection with the Kinmel Bay and Towyn Sewerage Scheme have now been completed at a capital cost of £293,000. The loan charges on this sum of money impose a very heavy burden on the local rate. In addition, the day-to-day routine operation of the scheme is responsible for a threepenny rate.

The contracts referred to include Nos. 1, 2, 3, 1A5, 1A6 and 1A6E, and consist of the main pumping station and storage tanks, the sea outfall, the main sewers, both gravitational and pumping, and the connections to residential properties and camping sites. The surface water schemes are also included in these completed works.

This means that apart from isolated properties, all premises in the drainage areas which have been dealt with are now connected to the sewers. It does not mean, of course, that all properties in Kimmel Bay and Towyn enjoy this service. The more remote, southerly areas of Towyn and the major portion of the area of Kimmel Bay which is situated on the south side of the main railway line are not yet sewered.

The sewerage works so far carried out have enabled the conversion to water closets from pail closets of a number of properties in the Towyn area. This is a most desirable feature, representing **a much overdue item of modernisation.**

The Council's Consulting Engineers are now engaged on the details required in connection with the new tidal storage tanks and pumping station at Pensarn. When these works are under construction it is proposed also to be working on the sewer extension from Belgrano to the Millers Cottage area of Towyn. Both schemes should be completed and in operation at about the same time.

I must again draw attention to the area situated between the eastern limit of Belgrano extension and the western limit of the sewered portion of Towyn. This is an area carrying heavy camping development and consideration should be given to providing sewers there at an early date.

The prolonged spell of dry weather experienced during the summer of 1959 resulted in a very small flow of water in the River Dulas. The outfall from the sewage works discharges into this river and as these works are now overloaded, there was considerable pollution of the river. Some temporary improvement works have been carried out and a major scheme is at the present time in the early stages of preparation.

Provision has been made in the estimates for an extension of the sewer in the Llanfair Road area, and when this work is carried out many useful improvements can be effected.

RODENT CONTROL

There has been no change in the rodent control services of the Council. Jointly with the Aled and St. Asaph Rural District Councils the whole-time services of a trained rodent operator have been shared. The operator has inspection duties to perform and all the

treatments required on local authority owned properties, including sewers. He also carries out treatments on privately owned properties and advises the occupiers if they wish themselves to carry out destruction operations. The operator who is conscientious and trustworthy continues to give satisfactory service.

Periodically, meetings are arranged by the Ministry of the Denbighshire and Flintshire Rodent Control Area Advisory Committee, at which local problems are discussed and talks given by Ministry Inspectors.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

As might be expected there is no problem of atmospheric pollution in our area arising from industrial sources.

Consideration was given during the summer period to the applicability of the Clean Air Act and the Public Health Act to the nuisance of smoke from the burning of refuse.

FACTORIES

Included in this Report is the statutory return required to be made under the provisions of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959. At the end of the year there were twenty-three power factories and nine non-power factories in the urban area.

A small number of inspections were made and informal action was taken in two cases in connection with insufficient sanitary accommodation.

SHOPS ACT ADMINISTRATION

As our area is used as a holiday resort, the Council is empowered, within the provisions of Section 51 of the Shops Act, 1950, to make local orders to permit certain retail trading on not more than eighteen Sundays in the year, and two such Orders were made.

One Order related to the retail sale of fried fish and chips ; the second Order permitted the sale of the articles listed in the seventh schedule. This second Order did not operate in the Abergele town area as the majority of the shopkeepers in that area were not in favour of the making of such an Order.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1959 of the Urban District of Abergele in the County of Denbigh

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of	
			Written notices (4)	prosecuted Occupiers (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	23	7	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers, premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	32	7	2	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in prosecutions which were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
(1)					
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	2	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

No person was on the Register of Outworkers.

FOOD INSPECTION

Subsequent to the passing of the Slaughterhouses Act of 1958 and the issue of the Hygiene and Cruelty Regulations, the Slaughterhouses Reports (Appointed Day) Order of 1959 stipulated the 2nd day of November, 1960, as the latest date for the submission by local authorities of their Reports. These Reports have to be made in accordance with the Minister's Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction, 1959.

The requirements for, and the availability of slaughtering facilities have to be reported upon, after consultation with neighbouring local authorities and interested parties and organisations. It is hoped that the necessary formalities regarding the lease of the premises will be quickly completed so as to enable a true presentation to be made. It is an advantage from an administrative standpoint that there is only one slaughterhouse in the area.

All animals are inspected after slaughter and during the year the total inspected was fourteen thousand, four hundred and eighty-two, showing an increase of over one thousand over the previous year. This was again very much in excess of local requirements, and a Ministry Grant was received towards the cost of inspection. The details of inspections and condemnations are given in the tables which follow.

The pattern of disease and unfitness was very similar to the previous year. Bovine tuberculosis is now almost never seen in the slaughterhouse. Out of almost one thousand cattle slaughtered only five localised lesions of the disease were found. This is a tribute to the achievements of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry and the veterinary profession in their schemes for the eradication of this disease.

Once again the prevalence of liver fluke was most noticeable. Exactly fifty per cent. of all bovine livers examined in the slaughterhouse were condemned as being unfit for food on account of this condition. The loss of four hundred and ninety-two livers resulted in a scarcity in the local shops of this article. Meetings were

arranged by the Advisory Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food dealing with the steps which could be taken to reduce the loss caused by Liver Fluke Disease and it is hoped that there will be an improvement.

As in previous years, the ready co-operation and assistance of the slaughtermen was always available when carrying out meat inspection duties.

The usual attention was given throughout the year to the control of milk supplies and thirty-six samples were taken at shops, schools, and from milk roundsmen. These samples made up of nineteen Pasteurised, five Sterilised and twelve Tuberculin tested, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. All samples were found to satisfy the prescribed statutory tests. Two samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercule bacilli with negative results.

During the summer season thirty-six samples of ice cream were collected and submitted for examination for bacteriological cleanliness. As the following table shows the results were very good :

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33 samples
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 samples
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 sample
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Throughout the year a constant check was maintained on the purity of the Glyn Lws water supply. In all, forty-six samples were taken, eight were examined for residual chlorine—with negative result—and thirty-eight were examined bacteriologically. Thirty-seven of these samples gave a result of Grade I and the other samples was Grade 2. The last samples to be taken before the reservoir went dry were found to be Grade 1. This is indeed a tribute to the unceasing attention given to the maintenance of a pure supply by the Surveyor and his staff. During the period when the reservoir was dry, water was delivered to a large part of the Llanddulas area. The Council has recorded its appreciation of the manner in which this task was carried out.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	964	24	60	12206	1228	Nil
Number inspected	964	24	60	12206	1228	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	1	Nil	31	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	504	9	Nil	50	4	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	52%	42%	Nil	0.66%	0.5%	—
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	32	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.5%	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.6%	—
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR**BEEF :**

(a) 1 Cow Carcase and Organs :

Non-Tubercular Disease	660 lbs.
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(b) Part Carcase and Organs :

5 Oxen—Localised Tuberculosis	142 lbs.
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504 Oxen—Other Diseases	6130 lbs.
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9 Cows—Other Diseases	108 lbs.
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PORK :

(a) Complete Carcases :

2 Pig-Carcases and Organs : Non-Tubercular Diseases	260 lbs.
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(b) Part Carcase and Organs :

32 parts—Localised Tuberculosis	420 lbs.
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4 parts—Other Diseases	40 lbs.
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VEAL :

NIL.

MUTTON AND LAMB :

31 Complete Sheep Carcases	921 lbs.
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50 Part Carcases and Organs	103 lbs.
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(All non-tubercular condition)

Total Weight Condemned	3 tons, 18 cwts, 1 qr., 20 lbs.
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OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED

Canned Fish	6 lbs.
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Canned Fruit	612 lbs.
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Canned Vegetables	1261 lbs.
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Canned Milk	300 lbs.
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Canned Meat	851 lbs.
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Canned Soup	408 lbs.
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Puddings	6 lbs.
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Bacon	56 lbs.
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Ham	14 lbs.
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Total Weight Condemned	1 ton, 11 cwt., 1 qr., 14 lbs.
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REFUSE AND SALVAGE

Year by year the amount of refuse which has to be collected continues to increase. This is due to the increase in both the resident and summer population. Since the end of the war there has been a one-third increase in the number of houses and bungalows in the area, while the population on the camping sites is more than four times as great.

A weekly collection of refuse is made to all premises with the exception of a small number of isolated dwellings which are served by very indifferent roadways. Salvage, in the form of paper and fibreboard cartons, rags, mattresses and scrap metals, is collected at the same time as the refuse.

It is considered worthwhile to sell this material, as the alternative would be to dispose of it at the refuse tip. Such a procedure would raise problems at the disposal point and would render the task of maintaining a satisfactory tip much more difficult. The gross income from the sale of salvaged materials during the financial year ended 31st March, 1960, was £1028/9/1, made up as follows :

Type	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	£	s	d
Paper and Fibreboard	119	8	2	954	18	2
Metals	6	17	1	28	10	7
Rags, etc.	5	—	2	45	0	4
Totals	131	6	1	1028	9	1

This shows an increase in value of £60 over the previous year. This figure would be increased if it was possible to handle all the salvage which is available during the peak of the holiday season. To achieve this would require greater storage space and more men to collect and bale the paper.

The disproportionately large holiday population compared with our resident population imposes a very difficult task on the refuse collection employees. The peak summer population is probably five times as great as the winter population, and in addition road traffic conditions add to the burden. It is not possible to engage extra men for a short period, as any men who may be unemployed can find more congenial work. The result is that the men have to

work a considerable amount of "overtime." The workmen do not take their holidays during the busy holiday season as it would be impossible to cope with the task with less than the full complement of men.

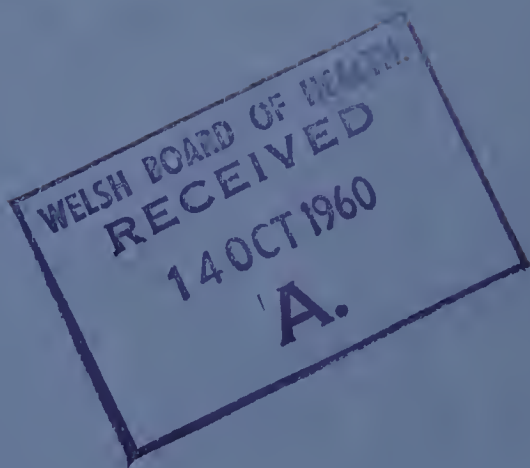
The acquisition of an electric paper baling press has proved to be a worthwhile investment.

During the year it became increasingly obvious that action must be taken to acquire a new site for refuse disposal.

The year 1959 was in fact a disastrous one with regard to the site near Beach House, Llanddulas. Three major outbreaks of fire occurred which cost a total of £600 to extinguish. The fires were of external origin, being caused either accidentally or perhaps by some thoughtless action on the part of somebody walking over the tip. Sometimes grass fires have been seen to have been started by sparks from passing railway engines. During the summer-time the refuse is very combustible in nature and if a fire is not quickly discovered it is almost impossible to deal successfully with it and it becomes necessary to excavate and remove the affected part. The exceptionally dry, hot summer added to our difficulties as the nearby stream—which has proved an invaluable source of water for fire-fighting—dried up. On one occasion we pumped sea water at midnight in an effort to extinguish a fire.

These fires, naturally, had the effect of lowering the standard of refuse disposal at the tip, a task which is rendered more difficult by the very considerable quantities of debris and discarded material which is brought to the tip by persons known and unknown at any hour of any day.

The experiences of the year 1959 convinced the Council of the need to acquire a new machine for disposal work, and a new site which could be fenced off and properly managed. A Sub-Committee was appointed and met several times to consider alternative sites. Visits of inspection were made, and by the end of the year definite proposals were taking shape. The acquisition of a new site for a refuse tip is, however, a task beset with problems which often take a long time to solve.



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